

fore the Legislature, and in the courts of justice. The principle of separate schools was freely recognised. The privilege of a mixed jury was granted as in the Province of Quebec. Provision was made for the extinction of the Indian title, and free grants of land were made to the half-breeds and their children, which in 1873 by the Land Act were extended to the old white settlers and their children. All these concessions were granted by the Manitoba Act of 1870, Vic. 33, cap. 3. Whatever may be the diversity of opinion as to the causes, pretexts or circumstances of these troubles of 1869-70, there cannot be any doubt that without the French half-breeds, Manitoba would not have been granted the liberties and privileges of popular government, and this important reform bears testimony to the intelligence and patriotism of the French half-breeds. This has been admitted by many eye witnesses of the events of these days, and quite recently by Mr. Alexander McArthur, of Winnipeg, an old official of the Hudson Bay Company, a prisoner of Riel, when lecturing before the Historical and Scientific Society of Winnipeg, on the 4th October, 1882, and in fact the language he used shows his impartiality in the matter. He says :

"While the leaders of the half-breeds brought ignominy on themselves by imbing their hands in blood, it cannot be denied that they obtained rights and privileges for themselves and their fellow countrymen, which but for the stand they took would never have been granted, and the boons so secured they have the satisfaction of knowing were equally participated in by those nations and residents of the country, who not only took part in the rising, but were many of them opposed to it and disposed to aid the other side."

The Manitoba Act also provided for a temporary government in that portion of Rupert's Land, and North-Western Territory not included in the Province of Manitoba. It enacted that until the end of the Session of 1871, it was to be left to the management of the Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba with the aid of the council provided for by the Act of 1869. Considering the state of the country, its small population, this provisional Government was perhaps the only practicable one. Its services were fully acknowledged by the Minister of the Interior (Hon. Mr. Mills) in his report of 1876. He said :

"It is due to that council to record the fact that their legislation and valuable practical suggestions submitted to Your Excellency from time to time through their official head, Lieutenant Governor Morris, aided the Government not a little in the good work of laying the foundations of law and order in the North-West, in securing the good will of the Indian tribes, and in establishing the *prestige* of the Dominion Government throughout the vast territory."

During the Sessions of 1871 and 1873 the appointment of a special Lieutenant Governor and Council for the North-